

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office action dated September 28, 2004, and have made amendments to the claims. Claim 12 has been amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12, 14, 15, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0050758 to Suzuki ("Suzuki"). Claims 12, 14, 15, 17 and 19 were further rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,752,500 to Yoshii et al. ("Yoshii et al."). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

A proper rejection for anticipation under § 102 requires complete identity of invention. The claimed invention, including each element thereof as recited in the claims, must be disclosed or embodied, either expressly or inherently, in a single reference. Scripps Clinic & Research Found. v. Genentech Inc., 927 F.2d 1565, 1576, 18 U.S.P.Q.2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991); Standard Havens Prods., Inc. v. Gencor Indus., Inc., 953 F.2d 1360, 1369, 21 U.S.P.Q.2d 1321, 1328 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

As amended, independent claim 12 now recites "a projection lens for enlarging and projecting an image and for projecting light parallel to a screen." Support for such an amendment can be found, inter alia, at FIGS. 2 and 3 of the specification. In contrast, both Suzuki and Yoshii et al. disclose projection lenses which project light in a direction toward, or near-perpendicular to, a screen. Moreover, neither Suzuki nor Yoshii et al. teach or suggest a projection lens projecting light parallel to a screen, as in amended claim 12. In view of this, neither Suzuki nor Yoshii et al. discloses each element of the claimed invention. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 12, and its claims dependent therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,388,810 to Monson et al. ("Monson et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, independent claim 12 now recites "a projection lens for enlarging and projecting an image and for projecting light parallel to a screen." Applicants respectfully submit that this new limitation in combination with the limitation of a convex mirror positioned opposite the projection lens renders the claim allowable over the prior art. Furthermore, the combination allows the thickness of the projection system to be remarkably reduced because light projected in a direction parallel to the screen takes up a minimum amount of space.

Monson et al. discloses a projection lens which projects light at an angle with respect to a screen (please see Figs. 1-5 of Monson et al.). Accordingly, the overall thickness of the Monson et al. projection system is not reduced, as in the claimed invention, because the light projected at an angle cannot not take up a minimum amount of space. Moreover, Monson et al. does not teach or suggest projecting light parallel to the screen in combination with a convex mirror positioned opposite the projection lens. Rather, Monson et al. teaches a planar mirror being positioned opposite the projection lens. In view of this, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to derive the claimed invention. Thus, Applicants request that claim 12, and the claims dependent therefrom, be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present Amendment places all claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

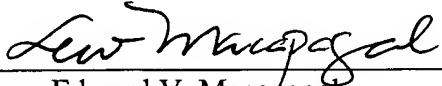
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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